Spectrum allocation

*318. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spectrum allocation to CDMA telecom operators has been delayed from June to December, 2008;

(b) if so, the details there of and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that launch of 3G wireless services would be delayed and face major problems with spectrum allocation getting delayed; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take for allocation of spectrum before June, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No case is pending for allotment of CDMA spectrum for 2G services as per present criteria. The allotment of spectrum to various mobile telecom operators, including CDMA operators, is made taking into account relevant provisions of their service license agreement, guidelines, orders eligibility criteria etc., and subject to availability of spectrum.

(c) and (d) The Government has announced the broad guidelines for 3G services taking into account TRAI recommendations and other related aspects. These guidelines include, among others, allotment of spectrum for 3G services through auction process.

Complaints regarding coal theft

†*319. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaint of coal theft by the officers of the company, coal transporter in connivance with office bearer of employees association have been received from Bhaji Pani Open Cast Western Coalfields Ltd., Parasia, district Chhindwara;

(b) whether headquarters of the Western Coalfields Ltd. Nagpur Parasia has received any complaint;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) the findings of inquiry and efforts that have been made to check the theft of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a complaint was received by the management of Pench Area, Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) and also WCL Headquarters, Nagpur regarding pilferage of coal from Bhaji Pani Open Cast Mine (OCM.) in Pench Area.

(c) The matter was investigated by Chief Security Officer (CSO), WCL.

(d) The major findings of enquiry are as under:

(i) involvement of coal transporter in organized theft of coal along with others was not ruled out.

(ii) The inaction on the part of local police is responsible for continuation of such activities.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Illegal mining activities have restarted in Pench Area and the management was not successful in curbing such activities with its man power.

(iv) Suggestions are made to activate the Committee to monitor illegal mining activities, seeking police assistance in curbing the same and deployment of CISF personnel.

The efforts made to check illegal mining/theft of coal by WCL are as under:

(i) Wherever possible single entry/exit point is made.

(ii) Entry/exit points are manned by establishing proper check-posts and barriers where all coal laden vehicles are physically checked.

(iii) Patrolling within and outside mine area by security staff is being carried out.

(iv) Joint patrolling with the help of local police at night hours is also being carried out.

(v) Proper FIR is lodged as and when any incident of theft of coal is noticed.

(vi) Follow up actions are taken for recovery of pilfered coal, if any

(vii) CISF in Pench Area has been deployed *w.e.f.* 16.10.2007.

(viii) Efforts are being made for deployment of CISF at Kanhan Area of WCL.

(ix) Committee to monitor illegal mining has been activated.

British PM's visit to India

*320. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Prime Minister visited India to attend "India-UK Summit" in January, 2008 and held discussions with the Prime Minister of India pertaining to bilateral trade, investment, climate change, education, technology, transfer, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and outcome of above mentioned summit; and

(c) whether India has agreed to join as a Member of "Financial Action Task Force" to root out those who are seeking to use terrorists' finance as well as combating global terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Mr. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, visited India for the fourth India-UK Summit on January 20-21, 2008. During the visit, the Prime Ministers of the UK and India held discussions on bilateral and global issues of mutual interest, on aspects of the India-UK Strategic Partnership, including education, economic and commercial relations, research, science and technology, climate change, MDGs, and counter terrorism. The two sides entered into a Memorandum of Understanding of India-UK Higher Education Leadership Development Programme to develop leadership skills in Indian Universities. A Joint Statement was signed by the two Prime Ministers at the Summit on January 21, 2008. A copy of the Joint Statement is given at statement (*See* below).

India has agreed to join as a Member of 'Financial Action Task Force' (FATF). India is actively pursuing membership of Financial Action Task Force, which is engaged in establishing global standards and measures for countering money laundering and terrorist financing.